<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:</u>

1.-37.   (Canceled)

38.   (Currently Amended) A method for collecting body fluid from the skin, said method comprising:

providing a sampling device comprising <u>a base</u>, a sampling needle having an axis and a distal end, a first pressure surface at least partially surrounding said needle in spaced relation thereto, wherein said needle and said first pressure surface are movable relative to one another <u>and to said base</u> along a path of travel generally parallel to said axis with said needle, and a second pressure surface at least partially surrounding said needle and movable therewith, said second pressure surface axially spaced from said distal end of said needle by a distance approximating a desired penetration of said needle into said skin;

urging said first pressure surface against said skin with a force sufficient to define a pressurized zone of interstitial fluid opposing said needle; and

biasing said first pressure surface to a position wherein said distal end of said needle is recessed behind said first pressure surface.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

urging said needle and said second pressure surface distally of said first pressure surface wherein the needle penetrates the skin until said second pressure surface is caused to contact the skin.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising biasing the second pressure surface to a position wherein said first pressure surface is recessed behind said second pressure surface.

41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said first pressure surface is initially biased with about three to about four pounds per inch and said second pressure surface is initially biased with about one to about two pounds per inch.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising collecting body fluid within the skin and transporting it through the needle to a testing area.